



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

www.state.gov

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Dear Mr. Emanuel:

This is in response to your letter of September 24 expressing concerns about reports that Iraq is considering purchasing electricity from Syria and Iran.

Since Iraq's liberation, the U.S. and our coalition partners have been working to restore the basic services that meet the immediate needs of Iraqi civilians. Rebuilding the electrical infrastructure in Iraq and ensuring that electricity is available and reliable throughout the country is a high priority of our reconstruction effort. The Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in Iraq, and the Governing Council have assessed that significant improvements are needed to Iraq's electrical grid and power distribution network. Supplemental energy sources will be required until Iraq's electrical system is fully operational. To meet its electric needs, Iraq is seeking to swap electricity from its neighbors in exchange for crude oil. For example, last month, a power plant in Silopi, Turkey began providing 75 megawatts of electricity per day to Iraq with plans to increase the supply to more than 200 megawatts per day. While CPA is not pursuing Iranian supplies, it decided to accept Syrian sources also under a swap arrangement. Neither exchange involves the expenditure of funds.

Efforts to stabilize Iraq and ensure its electricity needs are met do not in any way distract from our continued bilateral concerns with respect to both Iran and Syria. Please be assured that we share Congress' concerns and will continue to push our bilateral agenda.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Polt
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Rahm Emanuel,
House of Representatives.